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FP-14-03 Demographic Profile of Same-Sex Couple Households with Minor Children, 2012

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Demographic Profile of Same-Sex Couple Households with Minor Children, 2012

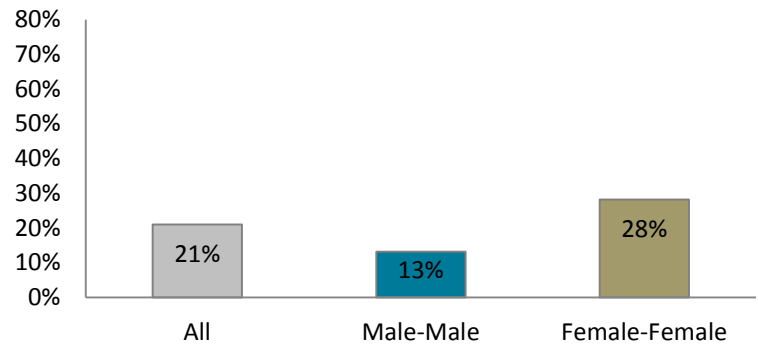
Krista K. Payne

This profile uses the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year population estimates to present a demographic snapshot of same-sex couple households living with minor children in the United States. The ACS is an ideal survey for estimating the relatively small population of same-sex couples living with minor children, given the large ACS sample size (Lofquist, 2012). We provide an update to prior analyses of same-sex couple households using the ACS (Burgoyne, 2012; Gates, 2013; Lofquist, 2011).

There are approximately 235,692 minor children living in same-sex couple households in the United States.

- One-fifth (21%) of all same-sex couple households include a minor child.
- Male-male households (13%) are half as likely as female-female households (28%) to have a minor child present (Figure 1).

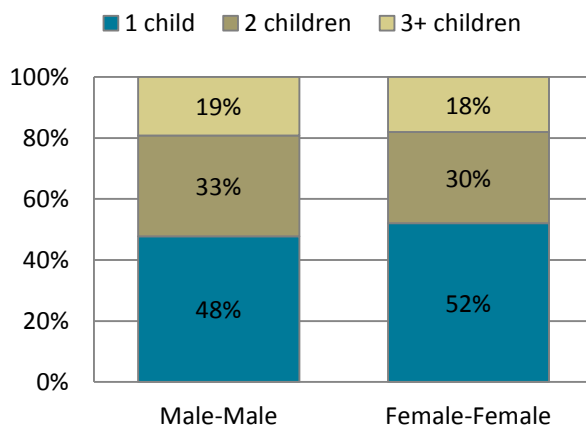
Figure 1. Percentage of Same-Sex Couple Households with Minor Children by Sex of Couple



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

Same-Sex Couple Households with Minor Children

Figure 2. Percentage of Same-Sex Couple Households by Number of Minor Children and Sex of Couple



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

- About half of same-sex couple households (48% male-male and 52% female-female) have only 1 minor child residing in the household.
- Slightly more male-male same-sex couples (33%) report living with 2 children than female-female same-sex couples (30%).
- Similar shares of male-male (19%) and female-female (18%) same-sex couple households include 3 or more minor children.

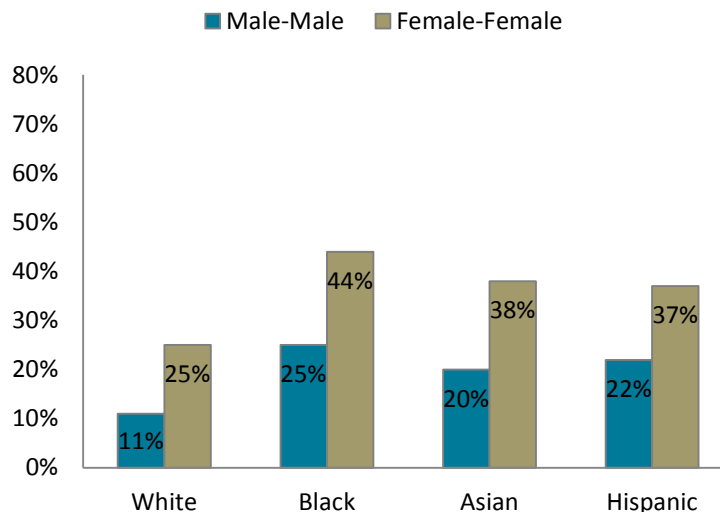
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Race/Ethnicity and Presence of Minor Children in Same-Sex Households

- Fewer White same-sex couple households report living with a minor child than non-White same-sex couple households. Only 11% of White male-male and 25% of female-female households have at least one minor child.
- The presence of minor children in female and male same-sex couple households is highest among Blacks. Approaching half (44%) of Black female-female same-sex households have a minor child and one-quarter of male-male do so.
- The share of Asian and Hispanic same-sex couple households that include minor children is quite similar for both male-male and female-female couples.

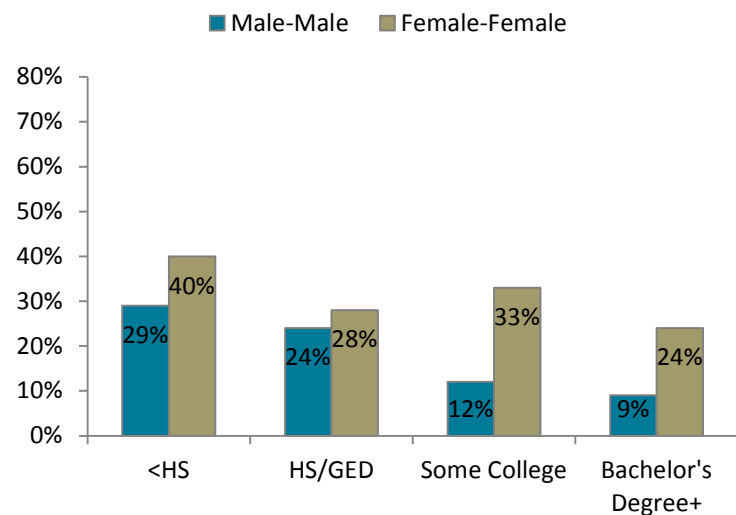
Figure 3. Percentage of Same-Sex Couple Households with Minor Children by Sex of Couple and Race/Ethnicity of Household Head



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

Educational Attainment and Presence of Minor Children in Same-Sex Households

Figure 4. Percentage of Same-Sex Couple Households with Minor Children by Sex of Couple and Educational Attainment of Household Head



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

- The presence of minor children in same-sex couple households is highest among those headed by individuals with less than a high school education, regardless of whether the same-sex couple is male-male (29%) or female-female (40%).
- There are stark educational differentials in the presence of children in male-male couple households. Among male-male couple households with low educational attainment (household head has less than a high school education), 29% have minor children. In contrast, only 9% of male-male couple households in which the household head has at least a Bachelor's degree have minor children living in the household.
- At each education level, similar shares of female-female households have a minor children present.

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